In the first decade of the 19th century the richest man in America, John Jacob Astor, decided to expand his fur trading business all the way to the West Coast of North America. Astor's plan was ambitious, and entailed founding a trading post in present day Oregon. A settlement, Fort Astoria, was established, but the War of 1812 derailed Astor's plans. The Gadsden Purchase was a strip of land in the American Southwest that was acquired from Mexico and...
essentially completed what would be the continental United States. The land was acquired largely because it was seen as a potential route for a transcontinental railroad. The Gadsden Purchase, when it was acquired in 1853, became controversial as it came to play a part in the great national debate over slavery. More than 70 Northern and Southern Plains Indians from various tribes were imprisoned in St. Augustine, Fla., at Fort Marion between 1875 and 1878 because of their roles in the Red River Wars, a U.S. military campaign to move tribes onto reservations. Encouraged to draw by their military captors, 26 of the prisoners, mostly Cheyenne and Kiowa, produced hundreds of individual drawings and a number of books detailing their former lives as warriors and hunters as well as their new lives as prisoners and students. “These drawings illustrate that there is a Native ‘voice’ in the interpretation and